



**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR  
DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER AUTHORITY  
WESTBY MAINLINE PROJECT**

**TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS**

Date: August 16, 2019  
Action: Water System Improvements Project  
Location of Project: Sheridan County, Montana  
DEQ/DWSRF Funding: To be Determined  
Total Project Cost: Approximately \$5,700,000

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding construction of a drinking water distribution system by the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority (DPRWA) in Sheridan County.

The proposed action consists of the installation of approximately 63 miles of buried pipelines 2-inch to 10-inch in diameter, a booster pump station, and a ground level storage reservoir to provide drinking water. The pipelines will be installed in the area along Highway 5 between Plentywood and Westby in Sheridan County to serve the community of Westby. These pipelines are part of the Dry Prairie Rural Water System and are intended to bring high quality drinking water to communities and individual rural residents.

Based on the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA), including environmental commitments detailed in the EA, the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project: (1) the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System, Fort Peck Reservation and Dry Prairie Service Areas, dated October 2002. The lead agency for the EA was the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation (The Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation were cooperating agencies in preparation of the EA); (2) a Design Report for Westby Mainline Project prepared by DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company; (3) Contract Legal Documents, Specifications and Drawings for the Westby Mainline Project prepared by DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company; and (4) Review of potential contaminant sources completed by the source water protection section of DEQ. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

Sandie Koenig  
Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Phone (406) 444-6770  
Email: sandie.koenig@mt.gov

Or:

Joni Sherman  
Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority  
P.O. Box 577  
Culbertson, MT 59218  
(406) 787-5382  
Email: jonidprw@nemont.net

Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the date of publication of this FONSI in the newspaper. After evaluating substantive comments received, DEQ will revise the EA or determine if an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary. Otherwise, this finding of no significant impact will stand if no substantive comments are received during the comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Signed,



Kevin Smith, Chief  
Engineering Bureau

c: file



Figure 1. Westby Mainline Project - Dry Prairie Rural Water System Potential Contaminant Source Review



Mapping by Carolyn DeMartino, DEQ Water Quality Division, August 2019